

At the Memorial Day Parade ceremonies, Holgar Luther made the following presentation:

The recipient of last year's Wally Kneeland Community Service award presents the citation to the recipient of this year. So I'm honored to be here to present the 2008 Wallace Kneeland Community Service award to a person who has labored for uncounted hours in behalf of the Town and its residents for well over 35 years. In the words of Audry Iarocci who wrote the nominating letter to the Selection Committee:

“(He) is a man of gentle, quiet and unassuming character, who constantly contributes his time, abilities and talents to the betterment of Topsfield. He has been doing this actively since 1972 when he served as the Liaison from the Long-Range School Planning Committee to the town Finance Committee. In that year, he began a two-year Scouting commitment as a Cub Scout leader and also began coaching TAA sports.

From 1973-1979 (he) was an elected member of the Topsfield Elementary School Committee, working on Collective Bargaining twice during that time. He served as Vice Chairman of the School Committee from 1975-1976 and as Chairman for two years (1977 and 1978). In addition, his commitment to education and his Ph.D, in chemistry enabled him to be a significant contributor to the Science Curriculum Committee.

From 1995 to its demise in 2007, (he) has been a member of the Topsfield Capital Planning Committee, the Elementary School Building Committee and the town Technology Committee, serving as Secretary. Since 1974, he has also lent his expertise to Masconomet Junior and Senior High School by acting as a judge at the Science Fairs.”

By now most of you probably know whom I'm referring to, so I will tell everyone. It is Dennis Shinn! Congratulations Dennis! Please come and accept this award.